

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/715,409	HIRATSUKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joon H. Hwang	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Matthew H. Polson (Reg. No. 58,841) on 5/11/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-10,13,14,17 and 18 (renumbered as 1-12).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants amended claims 13-14 and canceled claims 1-2, 11-12, 15-16, and 19 in the amendment filed on 3/6/07.

The pending claims are 3-10, 13-14, and 17-18.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew H. Polson (Reg. No. 58,841) on 5/11/07.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

Rewrite claim 3 as follows:

"3. A data distribution method comprising:

inputting a first extraction condition;

extracting a first data group from data registered in a database based on the first extraction condition;

inputting an order condition;

arranging data in the first data group in a specific order based on the order condition;

inputting a second extraction condition;
extracting a second data group from the database based on the second extraction condition;
extracting common data that is data that belongs to both the first data group arranged in the specific order and the second data group;
inputting an upper limit number;
extracting from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group; and
displaying information about the third data group and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group, in a distinguishable manner.”;

Rewrite claim 4 as follows:

“4. The data distribution method according to claim 3, further comprising:
extracting information about a number of data that belongs to the first data group after extracting the first data group; and
displaying the information about the number of data that belongs to the first data group before the inputting of the upper limit number.”;

Rewrite claim 5 as follows:

“5. The data distribution method according to claim 3, further comprising:
extracting information about a number of data that belongs to the first data group after extracting the first data group; and

changing a range of the upper limit number based on the information about the number of data extracted.”;

Rewrite claim 7 as follows:

“7. A data distribution method comprising:

inputting a first extraction condition;

extracting a first data group from data registered in a database based on the first extraction condition;

inputting an order condition;

arranging data in the first data group in a specific order based on the order condition;

inputting a second extraction condition;

extracting a second data group from the database based on the second extraction condition;

extracting common data that is data that belongs to both the first data group arranged in the specific order and the second data group;

inputting an upper limit number;

extracting from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group;

extracting from the common data, data other than the third data group as a fourth data group;

displaying information about the third data group, the fourth data group, and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group and the fourth data group, in a distinguishable manner.”;

Rewrite claim 8 as follows:

“8. The data distribution method according to claim 7, further comprising:

extracting information about a number of data that belongs to the first data group after extracting the first data group; and

displaying the information about the number of data that belongs to the first data group before the inputting of the upper limit number.”;

Rewrite claim 9 as follows:

“9. The data distribution method according to claim 7, further comprising:

extracting information about a number of data that belongs to the first data group after extracting the first data group; and

changing a range of the upper limit number based on the information about the number of data extracted.”;

Rewrite claim 13 as follows:

“13. A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program that causes a computer to execute:

inputting a first extraction condition;

extracting a first data group from data registered in a database based on the first extraction condition;

inputting an order condition;

arranging data in the first data group in a specific order based on the order condition;

inputting a second extraction condition;

extracting a second data group from the database based on the second extraction condition;

extracting common data that is data that belongs to both the first data group arranged in the specific order and the second data group;

inputting an upper limit number;

extracting from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group; and

displaying information about the third data group and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group, in a distinguishable manner.”

Rewrite claim 14 as follows:

“14. A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program that causes a computer to execute:

inputting a first extraction condition;

extracting a first data group from data registered in a database based on the first extraction condition;

inputting an order condition;
arranging data in the first data group in a specific order based on the order condition;
inputting a second extraction condition;
extracting a second data group from the database based on the second extraction condition;
extracting common data that is data that belongs to both the first data group arranged in the specific order and the second data group;
inputting an upper limit number;
extracting from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group;
extracting from the common data, data other than the third data group as a fourth data group;
displaying information about the third data group, the fourth data group, and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group and the fourth data group, in a distinguishable manner.”;

Rewrite claim 17 as follows:

“17. A data distribution apparatus comprising:
an inputting unit that receives input of a first extraction condition, a second extraction condition, an order condition, and an upper limit number;
a first extracting unit that extracts a first data group from data registered in a

database based on the first extraction condition;

an arranging unit that arranges data in the first data group in a specific order based on the order condition;

a second extracting unit that extracts a second data group from the database based on the second extraction condition, extracts common data that is data that belongs to both the first data group arranged in the specific order and the second data group, and extracts from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group; and

a display displaying information about the third data group and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group, in a distinguishable manner.”; and

Rewrite claim 18 as follows:

“18. A data distribution apparatus comprising:

an inputting unit that receives input of a first extraction condition, a second extraction condition, an order condition, and an upper limit number;

a first extracting unit that extracts a first data group from data registered in a database based on the first extraction condition;

an arranging unit that arranges data in the first data group in a specific order based on the order condition;

a second extracting unit that extracts a second data group from the database based on the second extraction condition, extracts common data that is data that

belongs to both the first data group arranged in the specific order and the second data group, extracts from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group, and extracts from the common data, data other than the third data group as a fourth data group; and

a display displaying information about the third data group, the fourth data group, and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group and the fourth data group, in a distinguishable manner.”.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3-10, 13-14, and 17-18 are allowed.

Claims 3, 13, and 17 identify the distinct features, inputting a first extraction condition, a second extraction condition, an order condition, and an upper limit number, extracting common data that is data that belongs to both the first data group arranged in the specific order and the second data group, extracting from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group, and displaying information about the third data group and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group, in a distinguishable manner, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art of records.

Claims 7, 14, and 18 identify the distinct features, inputting a first extraction condition, a second extraction condition, an order condition, and an upper limit number, extracting common data that is data that belongs to both the first data group arranged in

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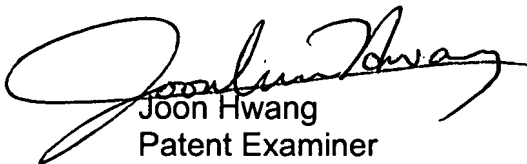
the specific order and the second data group, extracting from the common data first the upper limit number of data as a third data group, extracting from the common data, data other than the third data group as a fourth data group, and displaying information about the third data group, the fourth data group, and other data, which is data in the second data group other than the third data group and the fourth data group, in a distinguishable manner, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art of records. The closest prior art, Polnerow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,006) disclosing highlighting new data that has not previously shown to the user in a search result, fails to suggest the claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims 3-10, 13-14, and 17-18 are hereby allowed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

5/11/07